

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 32.

1. (presently amended) A method for purifying a ligand-binding molecule from a mixture, comprising:

(a) ~~forming a carrier-ligand conjugate by intein-mediated ligation wherein one of a carrier or a ligand is fused to an intein and the intein is cleaved resulting in a C-terminal thioester, the carrier reacting with the ligand to form the conjugate by means of a thioester nucleophile reaction by reacting a C-terminal thioester on a carrier, with a nucleophilic group on a ligand or a C-terminal thioester on a ligand with a nucleophilic group on a carrier, wherein cleaving a carrier-intein fusion protein or a ligand-intein fusion protein generates the C-terminal thioester;~~

(b) binding the carrier-ligand conjugate to a matrix and contacting the carrier-ligand conjugate with a mixture containing the ligand-binding molecule to selectively bind the ligand-binding molecule to the carrier-ligand conjugate; and

~~(c) selectively binding the ligand-binding molecule of step (b) to the carrier-ligand conjugate; and~~

(c) (d) eluting the ligand-binding molecule from the ligand so as to obtain the purified ligand-binding molecule.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ligand-binding molecule is an antibody and the mixture is an antiserum.

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